

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 17521 01 OF 02 051850Z

53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SAJ-01 OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01

/140 W

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R 051820Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9083

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 17521

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GW, CZ, HU, BU, FR, UK, US

SUBJECT: QUADRIpartite LUNCH, DECEMBER 5: FRG

OSTPOLITIK

1. SUMMARY: AT THE THREE ALLIED AMBASSADORS' REGULAR
MONTHLY LUNCHEON WITH FRG FONOFF STATE SECRETARY FRANK
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PAGE 02 BONN 17521 01 OF 02 051850Z

DECEMBER 5, THE LATTER DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH ASPECTS

OF BONN'S EASTERN POLICY. HE FOCUSED PARTICULARLY ON RECENT DIFFICULTIES WITH THE CZECHS OVER BERLIN, INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS, AND THE PROSPECTIVE VISIT OF THE POLISH FONMIN TO THE FRG. END SUMMARY.

2. FRANK WAS QUITE DEFENSIVE IN DISCUSSING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN FRG/CZECH RELATIONS, IN PARTICULAR THE SEEMING GERMAN CONCESSION ON THE HANDLING OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR WEST BERLINERS. HE SAID HE WAS LEAVING FROM THE LUNCH TO GO DIRECTLY TO DEFEND THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION IN THIS AREA BEFORE THE BUNDESTAG FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, AND DID NOT EXPECT TO HAVE AN EASY TIME THERE. FRANK SAID HE THOUGHT THAT IT SHOULD BE RECALLED THAT THE CZECHS HAD ADOPTED AT ONE POINT THE POSITION THAT A LEGAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT COULD BE CONCLUDED BETWEEN PRAGUE AND WEST BERLIN. HENCE GETTING THE CZECHS OFF THIS APPROACH REPRESENTED A POSITIVE STEP FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

3. AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND ASKED EXACTLY THE GERMANS EXPECTED TO COME OUT OF FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS AND EES ON THE LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROBLEM. SCHEEL CONCEDED THAT THE FORMULATIONS ACHIEVED IN MOSCOW WERE SOMEWHAT IMPRECISE. HE SAID OPENLY THAT THE OVERRIDING CONSIDERATION IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN TO REACH A RAPID SETTLEMENT WITH THE CZECHS, AND SUBSEQUENTLY WITH THE HUNGARIANS AND BULGARIANS, INASMUCH AS IT HAD BEGUN TO APPEAR IN THE PUBLIC EYE AS IF THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE REMAINING EE STATES WAS BEING HUNG UP ON A SECONDARY AND LEGALISTIC ISSUE. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD HENCE DECIDED TO BEND IN ITS POSITION SO AS TO BRING ABOUT AN EARLY SETTLEMENT WITH THESE THREE EE STATES.

4. FRANK DWELT AT SOME LENGTH ON THE APPARENTLY DOMINANT ROLE PLAYED BY THE GDR IN IMPOSING ITS HARD LINE ON LEGAL ASSISTANCE UPON THE USSR AND THE EE STATES. HE SAID THE GERMANS HAD INFORMATION THAT HONECKER PERSONALLY HAD PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT PART IN THIS PRESSURING

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PAGE 03 BONN 17521 01 OF 02 051850Z

MANEUVER, AND THAT THE CZECHS HAD PRACTICALLY

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PAGE 01 BONN 17521 02 OF 02 051829Z

53

ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9084

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 17521

TOLD THEIR CONTACTS IN BONN THAT THE GDR WAS BEHIND THE RECENT DIFFICULTIES. FRANK SAID THERE WAS ALSO SOME EVIDENCE THAT HONECKER HAD BEEN PLAYING UP TO ANTI-BREZHNEV FORCES IN MOSCOW IN AN EFFORT TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR HIS HARDLINE POSITION.

5. ON THE INNER-GERMAN RELATIONSHIP, FRANK WAS QUITE
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PAGE 02 BONN 17521 02 OF 02 051829Z

PESSIMISTIC. HE SAID RECENT CONTACTS HAD SHOWN NO SIGN OF READINESS FOR NORMALIZATION ON THE PART OF THE GDR. HE THOUGHT EGON BAHR'S RECENT SOMBER VIEW OF FUTURE FRG/GDR TIES (BONN 16744) WARRANTED.

6. REGARDING THE VISIT TO BONN BY POLISH FONMIN OLSZOWSKI DECEMBER 6 AND 7, FRANK WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT THIS VISIT WOULD BE ALL THAT WAS REQUIRED TO SETTLE THE ISSUES OF LOW INTEREST EXPORT CREDITS TO POLAND AND THE RESETTLEMENT IN GERMANY OF THOSE ETHNIC GERMANS DESIROUS OF LEAVING POLAND. HE THOUGHT THAT FURTHER HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGE WOULD BE NECESSARY BEFORE THESE MATTERS WERE FINALLY CLEAREDUP BY A GIEREK VISIT TO THE FRG NEXT YEAR. FRANK SAID THAT ALTHOUGH OLSZOWSKI WOULD BE GIVEN FRIENDLY TREATMENT DURING THIS VISIT TO BONN, FRANK DID NOT EXPECT ANY RAPID MOVEMENT IN FRG/POLISH RELATIONS TO RESULT FROM IT.

7. COMMENT: FRANK'S UNEASINESS OVER HAVING TO EXPLAIN THE FRG POSITION ON LEGAL ASSISTANCE VIS-A-VIS THE CZECHIS QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE. HE UNDOUBTEDLY RECOGNIZES THE WEAKNESS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION, WHICH HAS COME UNDER ATTACK FROM THE OPPOSITION AS WELL AS FROM A WIDE SEGMENT OF THE GERMAN PRESS.
HILLENBRAND

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